STARKINGS · CASEY · LACROIX

ACTIVE IMAGES

SEPT 2003 $3.50

"COMICRAFT" SINCE 1992

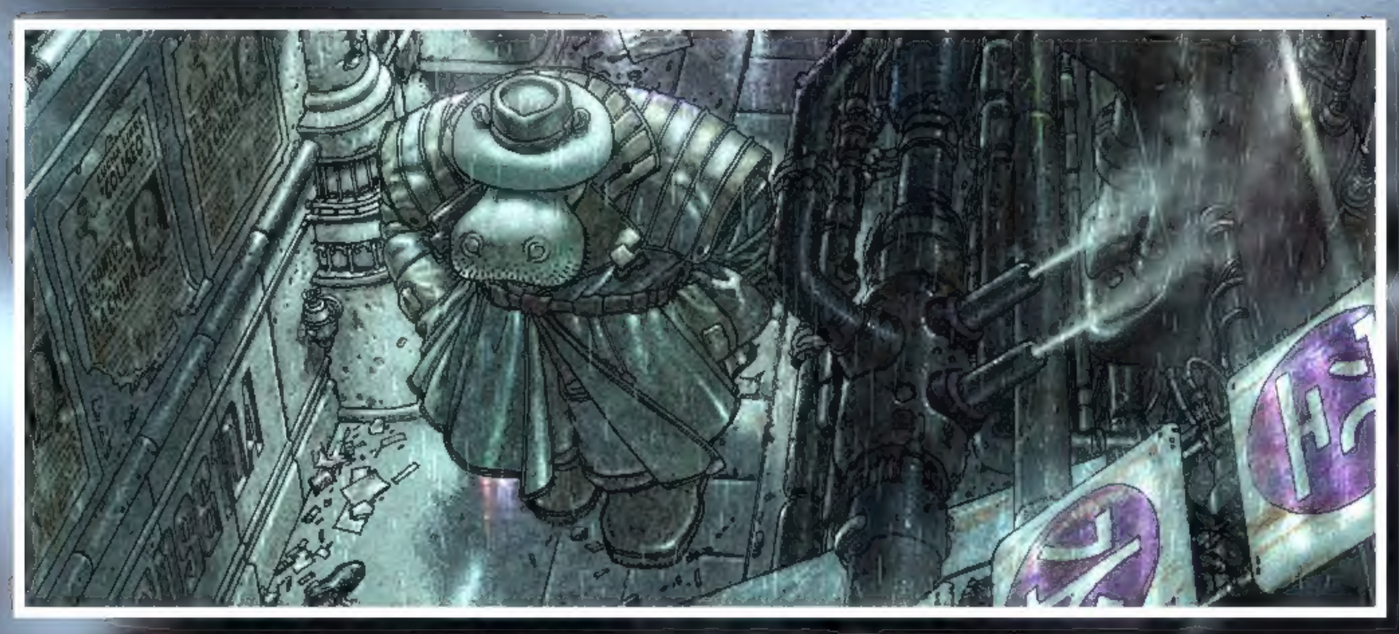
PULP SCIENCE FICTION

HIP FLASK®: ELEPHANTMEN

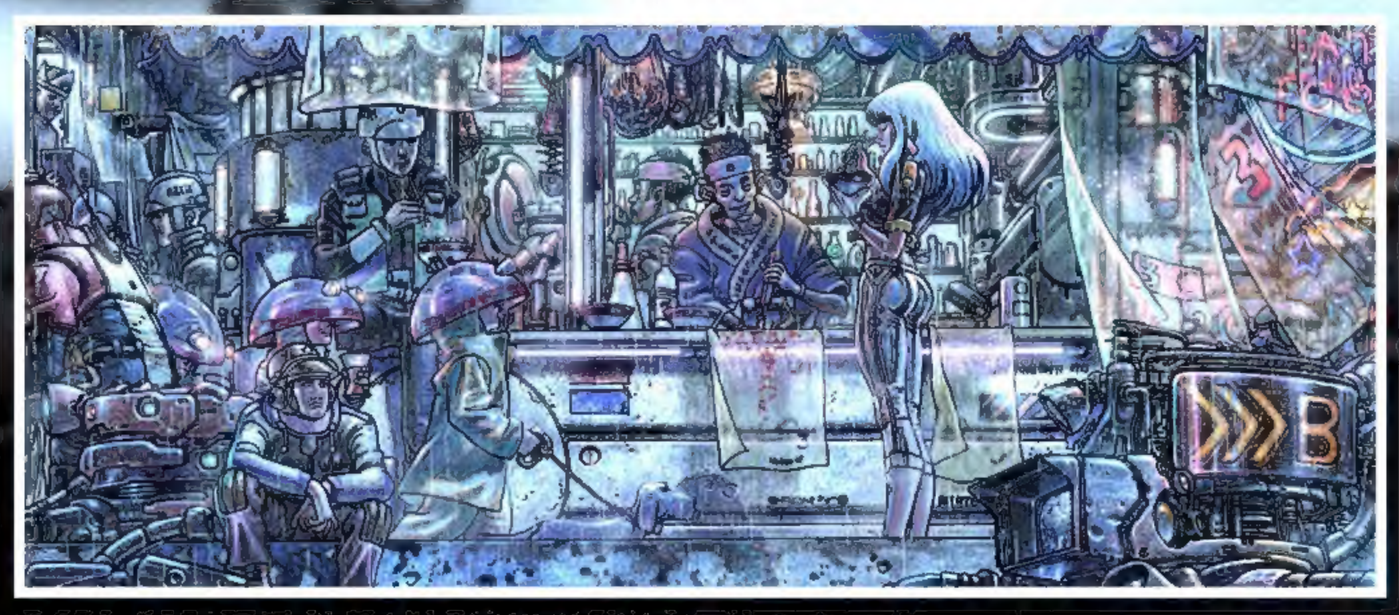
2262: THEY ARE THE SURVIVORS OF GENETIC ENGINEERING EXPERIMENTS AND INDOCTRINATION BY DOCTOR KAZUSHI NIKKEN AND MAPPO, A SINISTER ORGANIZATION WHICH SOUGHT TO CREATE SUPRAHUMAN WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

FREED AND REHABILITATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS INTELLIGENCE TASKFORCE, THE 'UNHUMANS' NOW LIVE AMONGST MEN, LEGITIMIZED BY THE 'ELEPHANTMEN' ACT, THEY ARE NEVERTHELESS DENIED THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS AND MUST SURVIVE ON THEIR WITS ALONE.

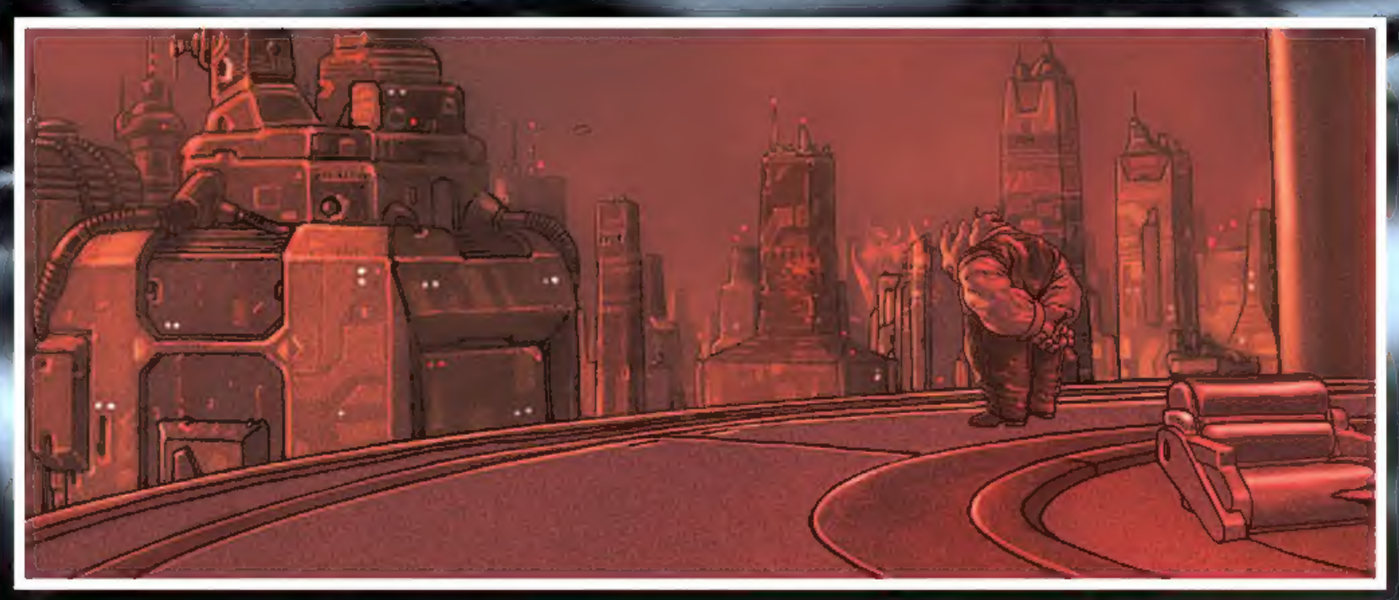
OBADIAH HORN HAS BECOME THE MOST CELEBRATED ELEPHANTMAN OF ALL. AT FIRST REGARDED AS LITTLE MORE THAN A FREAK, HE HAS USED HIS CELEBRITY STATUS TO FUEL A SMALL BUSINESS EMPIRE, GUIDED AND SUPPORTED BY HIS CONSORT, SAHARA.



OTHER, LESS AMBITIOUS, ELEPHANTMEN HAVE ASSUMED HUMBLER ROLES IN HUMAN SOCIETY. HIERONYMOUS 'HIP' FLASK, WORKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT AS AN ADVISOR TO THE INFORMATION AGENCY WITH HIS HUMAN COLLEAGUE, VANITY CASE.



REGARDLESS OF THE ROLES THEY ACCEPT IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLES BUILT BY MAN, FLASK AND HIS KIND ARE TREATED WITH SUSPICION AND CONTEMPT BY THE SPECIES THAT CREATED THEM, AND CANNOT ALWAYS RELY ON ONE ANOTHER FOR REASSURANCE OR FRIENDSHIP.



NIKKEN IS NOW IMPRISONED IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY INSTALLATION IN AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION SOMEWHERE IN THE U.S.

MOST OF HIS CHILDREN HAVE LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN HIM. AT LEAST, SO THEY CLAIM.

NORTH AFRICA · 2242

On the Serengheti plain of Africa,
If you are an Antelope,
You have to run faster than the
fastest Lion to survive.

If you are a Lion,
You have to run faster than
the slowest Antelope to survive.

So it really doesn't matter if
you are a Lion or an Antelope.
When the sun comes up in the morning,
You had better be running.

OBADIAH..?

CALIFORNIA

MY LOVE... DID YOU *HEAR* ME..?

FORGIVE ME, SAHARA...
A MOMENTARY *LAPSE*...

DON'T APOLOGIZE, THIS IS THE ONLY TIME AND PLACE I EVER SEE YOU TRULY AT *PEACE*...

I CAN *NEVER* BE AT PEACE, SAHARA.

EVEN THE COMFORT YOU PROVIDE IS SOON CHASED AWAY.

"TIME IS MONEY," MY DEAR.

"TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE..."

OBADIAH HORN, YOU TALK ALWAYS AS IF YOUR SOUL IS CAUGHT BETWEEN YESTERDAY AND TODAY...

I LIVE IN THE WORLD OF *MEN*.

MEN WHO TALK OF THEIR HUMANITY, BUT HAVE NOT *SEEN* WHAT YOU AND I HAVE SEEN.

DON'T BE CONCERNED, SAHARA. THEIR TALK MEANS *NOTHING* TO ME. THE VOICE OF *NIKKEN* MEANS NOTHING TO ME..

AS MAN EXPLAINS AWAY THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS OWN MANIPULATIONS, THOSE OF US WITH *REAL* POWER MOVE ON...

LET THE RACISTS AND THE RADICALS CARRY ON IN ENDLESS DEBATE. I WILL CREATE THE NEW FUTURE, UNFETTERED BY WEAK, *HUMAN* MORALITY.

I WILL LEAD. MAN WILL FOLLOW...

BECAUSE NOW, *I* AM THE VOICE.

ACTIVE IMAGES PRESENTS:

ELEPHANTMEN

RICHARD STARKINGS
STORY/DIALOGUE/LETTERS

LAURENN JOE CASEY
ART/STORY/DIALOGUE

...AND TELSTAR WEATHERNET SAYS **MORE** RAIN. IT WON'T BE LETTING UP FOR **AT LEAST** ANOTHER THREE DAYS...

SO, WHAT **ELSE** IS NEW? IF I SEE SUN AROUND HERE, I DON'T THINK I'M IN L.A.

WELL, LET ME FINISH. THEY'RE EXPECTING ONE LAST BLAST EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. LOTS OF LIGHTNING AND POSSIBLE POWER GRID FLUCTUATIONS.

WELL, **THAT**'LL BE GREAT FOR THE MORNING COMMUTE. ALRIGHT, RABBI... WHAT ELSE IS IN THE NEWS?

Santa Monica Blvd
1 MILE

Edward James Olmos
Expressway
NEXT TWO EXITS

Little Tokyo Plaza
EXIT AT MIYAZAKI
FOR SHIROW

Western A
LEFT LA

I405 Underpass
HEADLIGHTS ON
NO PASSING

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

WE'RE STILL TRYING TO GET SOME SORT OF CONFIRMATION FROM THE BAVERSTOCK FOUNDATION, AND WHETHER OR NOT THEIR CHRONAL BETA TESTING IS HAPPENING THIS WEEK--

"CHRONAL WHAT TESTING"? RABBI... SPEAK ENGLISH!

OH, SHUT UP. YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TIME EXPERIMENTS THEY'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE THE WEEK WHERE THEY SEND SOMEONE BACK...

WOUNDED ANIMALS PHASERS-ON-STUN

NOW, I ASK YOU... IS THIS A GOOD IDEA? I WOULDN'T WANNA GO BACK AND RELIVE MY LIFE, BELIEVE ME. TOO MUCH MISERY THERE... JUST ASK MY EX-WIFE...

OH YES, YOU'VE HAD SUCH A TRAUMATIC LIFE... HOW MUCH IS THE NETWORK PAYING YOU?

YEAH, YEAH, BUT THIS IS A CRAZY WORLD WE LIVE IN TO BEGIN WITH. DO WE REALLY WANNA ADD TO IT WITH THIS STUFF? I DUNNO... WHY DON'T WE ASK THE ELEPHANTMEN WHAT THEY THINK...?

WELL, HERMAN, THE NEXT TIME YOU RUN INTO ONE, WHY DON'T YOU DO THAT? IN THE MEANTIME, THE BAVERSTOCK EXPERIMENTS ARE GOING FORWARD AND I GUESS WE'LL ALL JUST HAVE TO TRUST THE GUYS IN CHARGE TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

OH, I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE IN SCIENTISTS. REALLY, I DO. I MEAN, LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO THE WORLD SO FAR. DIDN'T MAN MOVE TO THE CITIES TO KEEP THE ANIMALS OUT?

EVER THE VOICE OF TOLERANCE AND REASON, HERMAN... YOU'RE LISTENING TO THE HERMAN STRUM SHOW, STREAMING 24/7 FROM DOWNTOWN L.A., WE'LL BE RIGHT BACK...

CUSTOM-MADE SUITS, CLOTHING & SUNDRIES

MISS CASE... VANITY... PLEASE...

THERE'S REALLY NO NEED...

SHE JUST WANTS TO HELP, GRANGER...

WE BOTH DO.

WELL, I'M GLAD YOU STOPPED BY, RONNIE. UNFORTUNATELY THIS SORT OF THING HAS BEEN HAPPENING QUITE OFTEN...

BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME THE PERPETRATORS, CAN YOU? THEY'RE JUST FRIGHTENED AND ANGRY, AS MOST PEOPLE ARE...

JEREMIAH, MOST PEOPLE TAKE TWO ASPIRIN AND LIE DOWN... THEY DON'T KICK YOUR *WINDOWS* IN!

BUT WE'RE EASY TARGETS, KID... AND WHO CARES IF SOMEONE MAKES *OUR* LIVES MORE DIFFICULT...

PEOPLE *DO* CARE, HIP...

OH...

OH *NO*...

AH... WELL, THAT'S NICE. NICE AND *CARING.*

RONNIE, LOOK...

I DON'T WANT THE *INFORMATION AGENCY* IN ON THIS...

IF THIS GOES ON THE RECORD, THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET *WORSE...*

A STORY, A STORY... LET IT COME, LET IT GO.

WHATEVER. IT'S YOUR CALL.

HIP... *NO* -- WE CAN'T LET THE VANDALS WHO DID THIS GET AWAY WITH IT! THEY'RE BARBARIANS... *THUGS...* THEY'RE *ANIMALS!*

...OH...

YEAH, WELL... I'M GLAD YA CALLED ME, VANITY...

...LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR WORK CUT OUT FOR US...

WAIT... I DIDN'T CALL--

HEY, DID YOU HEAR THAT...

...KICKING...?

OH!

WELL, WHADDAYA KNOW...

VANDALS WITH THE DECENCY TO HANG AROUND LONG ENOUGH TO GET CAUGHT. YA DON'T SEE *THAT* EVERYDAY. DO YA?

NO, YOU *DON'T.*

MOST EXTRAORDINARY.

"ESTO NO LE VA A GUSTAR NADA, NADA..."

"POR ESO PREFIERO QUE TÚ SE LO DIGAS..."

LONG BEACH SEAPORT

S-4

OLVÍDALO... YO NO LE VOY A DECIR NADA... A MI ME PAGAN LA MITAD DE LO QUE TE PAGAN A TÍ...

YA, YA... TENÍAS QUE SALIR CON ESO DE NUEVO... MEJOR CIERRA LA BOCA, DEBO PENSAR EN ALGO...

SEÑOR SERENGHETI. WE HAVE THE WORD ON THE BUYOUT OF LONG BEACH IMPORTS...

THE TRUE IS -- IT'S LEGIT, HORN INDUSTRIES IS *LIMPIO*, COMPLETELY ABOVE BOARD.

SANTIAGO...

HE IS AN ANIMAL.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED THAT HE HAS LICKED THE BONES CLEAN.

MUNTS LIKE HIM HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO CONDUCT BUSINESS SHACKLED BY THE DEMANDS OF LEGITIMACY.

I DO NOT STRUGGLE WITH THE SAME RESTRAINTS.

COME.

AAAAAH!

DAMMIT! YOU GONNA PAY F'DAT, CROCSUCKER!

WHILE YOU TWO WERE IN ORANGE, WE WERE ABLE TO GAIN AN AUDIENCE WITH MISTER KLEGG HERE.

AS YOU KNOW, HE IS HORN'S RIGHT HAND MAN.

HE IS MORE THAN MUSCLE, THOUGH. MORE THAN AN UNDERWORLD DETERRENT.

HE HANDLES THOSE *SPECIAL* DELIVERIES THAT CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO HIS HUMAN COLLEAGUES.

YOU'RE SO *DEAD*, SERENGHETI...

AM I? THAT'S A BOLD STATEMENT...

THE SHIPMENT OF 'ARTIFACTS' TO THE HORN INDUSTRIES RESERVATION IN THE MOJAVE...

YOU KNOW THE DETAILS OF ITS ARRIVAL.

I WANT THEM.

KISS MY TAIL!

YES, ENJOY YOUR BRAVADO WHILE YOU CAN...

YOU MAY INSPIRE THE REQUISITE AMOUNT OF FEAR IN THOSE OTHERS WHO TANGLE WITH OBADIAH HORN...

BUT TO ME...

...YOU'RE A PAIR OF SHOES.

...LOOKS LIKE THE BEATING THE AUSTRALIAN MARKETS TOOK WILL HAVE LITTLE TO NO EFFECT ON OUR PRODUCTION RATES.

THE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS STILL ANXIOUS FOR YOU TO TAKE A SEAT ON THEIR BOARD.

THIS TIME, THEY DIDN'T REFER TO 'AFFIRMATIVE ACTION'...

... AND THE TODAY SHOW HAS INVITED YOU TO APPEAR ON THEIR TELECAST CELEBRATI--

GENTLEMEN, *PLEASE.* CUT TO THE CHASE. WE ARE NOT HERE TO PAT OURSELVES ON THE BACK.

I AM WELL AWARE THAT THE ECONOMY IS HITTING BUSINESSES HARD. TELL ME THE *BAD* NEWS.

UM... SIR... OUR SHIPPING LINES ARE REPORTING LOSSES RIGHT ACROSS THE BOARD...

FISHER AT UH... EASTERN HAS RECOMMENDED LAYOFFS, UH, SOMEWHERE IN THE REGION OF -- OF TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE...

HE'S -- HE'S BEEN WAITING ON YOUR WORD.

OGIER... YOU ARE *SWEATING.*

THE FAILURE OR SUCCESS OF HORN INDUSTRIES' SUBSIDIARIES SHOULD NOT DISTURB YOU SO.

WHEN YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED REAL HARDSHIP, YOU WILL UNDERSTAND.

TELL FISHER TO OFFER HIS PEOPLE A THIRTY PER CENT CUT IN INCOME.

WE MUST GIVE EACH MAN AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT FOR HIS LIVELIHOOD.

MISTER HORN, ONE MORE THING. THERE IS AN UNLISTED EXPENSE ACCOUNT IN AN ENCRYPTED LEDGER FILE.

I'M SEEING PAYMENTS TO A DONALD WILSON OF THE FIRM FRICK, BRAYBON AND WEBBER...

THAT'S RIGHT, THAT'S RIGHT -- THE LINE ITEM REQUIRES A PASSWORD THAT NO ONE IN ACCOUNTING SEEMS TO HAVE. IN FACT, NO ONE WAS EVEN AWARE...THAT THE PAYMENTS... UM...

...EXISTED.

MISTER OGIER, MISTER EDKINS...THERE ARE ASPECTS OF MY AFFAIRS THAT MUST REMAIN PRIVATE.

WILSON IS PERFORMING SOME WORK FOR ME OF A *DELICATE* NATURE.

NOW, IF NO ONE ELSE HAS MATTERS TO DISCUSS HERE, THIS MEETING IS OVER.

TIME IS PRECIOUS.

TIME! TIME IS PERHAPS THE MOST PRECIOUS COMMODITY OF ALL!

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS CORPS, MY COLLEAGUES IN THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY...

WELCOME TO THE BAVERSTOCK FOUNDATION!

THEY SAY THAT MANKIND'S TRUE ENEMY IS *TIME*. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE AT ITS MERCY BECAUSE OF OUR INABILITY TO CONTROL IT.

BUT MY EXPERIMENTS WILL PROVE ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT IT IS INDEED POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THAT CONTROL.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW ME, I AM *DOCTOR DAVID WHITAKER.*

THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, *LAMBERT.*

THE MACHINERY HERE MAY RESEMBLE A TUNNEL, BUT DO NOT BE SEDUCED BY THE IDEA THAT WE TRAVEL *THROUGH* TIME... IT IS NOT *IN FRONT* OF US, OR *BEHIND* US...

NO, TO TRULY UNDERSTAND TIME WE MUST ABANDON SUCH *LINEAR* CONCEPTS, AND ACCEPT THAT TIME IS SIMPLY A SHIFTING, KALEIDOSCOPIC PATTERN... ONE THAT ENVELOPS AND SURROUNDS US ALL.

WHAT WE WILL BE DOING HERE IS *FOLDING* TIME!

WE'RE ALL SET TO BEGIN, FATHER.

WE'RE ABOUT TO 'FOLD' TIME AROUND A SINGLE-CELLED BACTERIA AND PUSH IT THIRTY SECONDS INTO THE FUTURE.

IF ALL GOES WELL, WE'LL SEE QUICK RESULTS. SET YOUR WATCHES.

PERFECT... WARIS, ACTIVATE THE WARP COILS...

WHOA--!

THE HAIR ON MY ARMS --

ARE THE REMOTES GETTING ALL THIS?!

WHAT THE--?!

DOCTOR WHITAKER! WE'VE GOT CHRONOSCOPIC READINGS THAT ARE TAKING US RIGHT OFF THE SCALE--

HOW CAN THIS BE...?

--GOOD LORD...

...INCOMING!

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE... WHAT DO YOU CALL TWO ELEPHANTMEN ON A BICYCLE?

TELL ME...

OPTIMISTIC!

WHAT DOES HIP FLASK PUT ON HIS HOT DOG?

...ONIONS...?

NOPE!

HIPPOPOTAMUSTARD!

HUH... HIPPOPOTAMUS... TARD...

I DON'T THINK I GET IT....

HIP...

HIP... I'M SORRY... I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT MUST BE LIKE FOR YOU....

WE BOTH KNOW THE REAL REASON THE AGENCY ASSIGNED ME TO YOU -- BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE WANTED THE JOB -- BUT I STILL...

SPIT! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M *TALKING* ABOUT...

DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT, KID.

THE I.A. ARE ON TOP OF THINGS. OTHERWISE, WHY WOULD THEY HIRE ME IN THE FIRST PLACE?

THEY KNOW THE KIND OF WORK I WAS DOING FOR THE N.S.A...

THANKS, =UFF= FOR THE LIFT...

HEY, THAT REMINDS ME...

WHAT'S HARDER THAN GETTING AN ELEPHANTMAN INTO THE BACK SEAT OF YOUR CAR...?

GETTING HIM *OUT* OF THE BACK OF YOUR CAR?

HAH!

YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THAT...

AHHH, DOREEN, BLESS YOUR COTTON SOCKS...

WELCOME HOOME!

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY, BOSS?

CAN I FIX YOU A DRINK, BOSS?

PLAY YOUR MESSAGES?

READ YOU YOUR MAIL?

WAGNER-- DO ME A *BIG* FAVOR, JUST-- JUST FORGET I'M HERE...

...I ONLY WANT TO PREPARE MYSELF A SNACK..

WELL I COULD DO THAT, BOSS...

NO...

SOME MUSIC?

NO.

A FOOT MASSAGE!

...

HIPPOPOTA-*MUSTARD*... OH, I GET IT...

HEY, WAGNER... WHAT DO YOU GIVE A SEASICK HIPPO...?

I DON'T KNOW, BOSS...

PLENTY OF ROOM!

YIPE!

HEH, HEH, HEH HIPPOPOTAMUSTARD! *HAH!*

A BOLD HIPPOPOTAMUS WAS STANDING ONE DAY, ON THE BANKS OF THE COOL SHALI-MAR...

HE GAZED AT THE BOTTOM AS HE PEACEFULLY LAY IN THE LIGHT OF THE EVEN-ING STAR...

AWAY ON THE HILLTOP A-COMBING HER HAIR, A FAIR AND LITHE-SOME YOUNG MAID...

THAT BOLD HIPPOPOTAMUS WAS NO IGNORAMUS, AND HE SANG HER A SWEET SERA-NADE...

MUD! MUD...

"...GLORIOUS MUD..."

YES.

I UNDERSTAND.

"...NOTHING QUITE LIKE IT FOR COOLING THE BLOOD..."

NOW, UNDERSTAND ME...

...MY FEE IS NON-NEGOTIABLE. I AM A PROFESSIONAL. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME A TARGET AND I WILL FULFILL MY OBLIGATION.

"...SO FOLLOW ME FOLLOW, DOWN TO THE HOLLOW..."

THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL CONVERSATION. YOU HAVE MY INFORMATION... I EXPECT MY ACCOUNT TO BE CREDITED WITHIN THE HALF-HOUR.

MY TONE...?

"AND THERE LET ME WALLOW..."

YOU ARE MISTAKEN. I GET NO ENJOYMENT FROM THIS OCCUPATION. I DO IT TO MAKE A LIVING.

TO SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD, I KILL MEN FOR MONEY.

GOOD NIGHT.

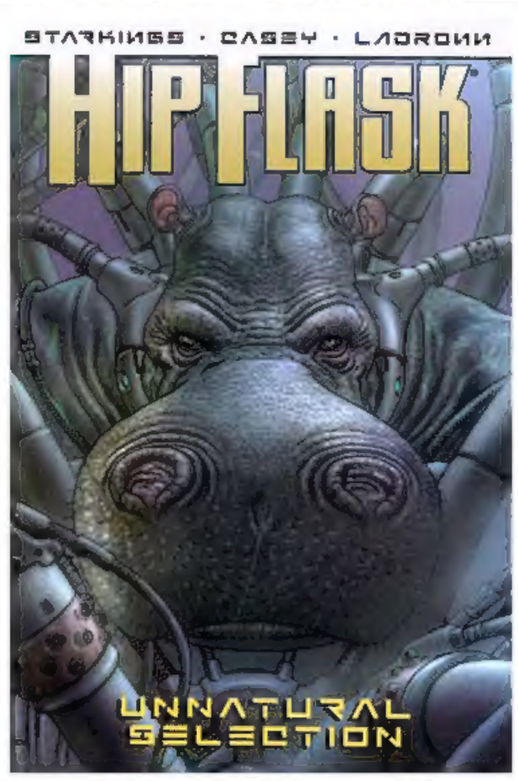
"...IN GLORIOUS MUD..."

YES... IT'S TRUE. I KILL MEN FOR MONEY.

BUT *ELEPHANTMEN* I SOMETIMES KILL FOR FREE...

THE BIG HERE &

THE ORIGIN OF HIP FLASK,
UNNATURAL SELECTION
is now available in a
WIDESCREEN
limited edition hardcover
packed with extras,
and also on CD-Rom in
5 languages; visit us
@ www.hipflask.com
for full details of all
HIP FLASK merchandise
currently available.



THE LONG NOW

WWW.COMICRAFT.COM · WWW.COMICBOOKFONTS.COM

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATES THIS ISSUE TO:
BRIAN BOLLAND, DAVE GIBBONS, IAN GIBSON,
MICK McMAHON & KEVIN O'NEILL

POST YOUR COMMENTS @ WWW.HIPFLASK.COM

HIP FLASK™ ELEPHANTMEN, July, 2003. Published by ACTIVE IMAGES; OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 8910 RANFORD DRIVE, LOS ANGELES CA 90045. Copyright © 2003 Active Images. President & First Tiger: Richard Starkings. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. HIP FLASK, INFORMATION AGENT (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) are trademarks of ACTIVE IMAGES. www.hipflask.com PRINTED IN CANADA.

PRODUCTION: COMICRAFT'S ROB STEEN
COMICRAFT'S SECRET WEAPON: JOHN 'JG' ROSHELL

EXTRA SPECIAL THANKS TO: YOUSHKA & YUYI

STARKINGS · CASEY · LADRONN

ACTIVE IMAGES

SEPT 2003 $3.50

NOODLES SUSHI うどん☆ラーメン EAT HERE

HIPFLASK: ELEPHANTMEN

COMICRAFT™ SINCE 1992

PULP SCIENCE FICTION

STARKINGS · CASEY · LACRONN

HIP FLASK®: ELEPHANTMEN™

ACTIVE IMAGES™

SEPT
2003
$3.50

"COMICRAFT" SINCE 1992™

PULP SCIENCE FICTION™

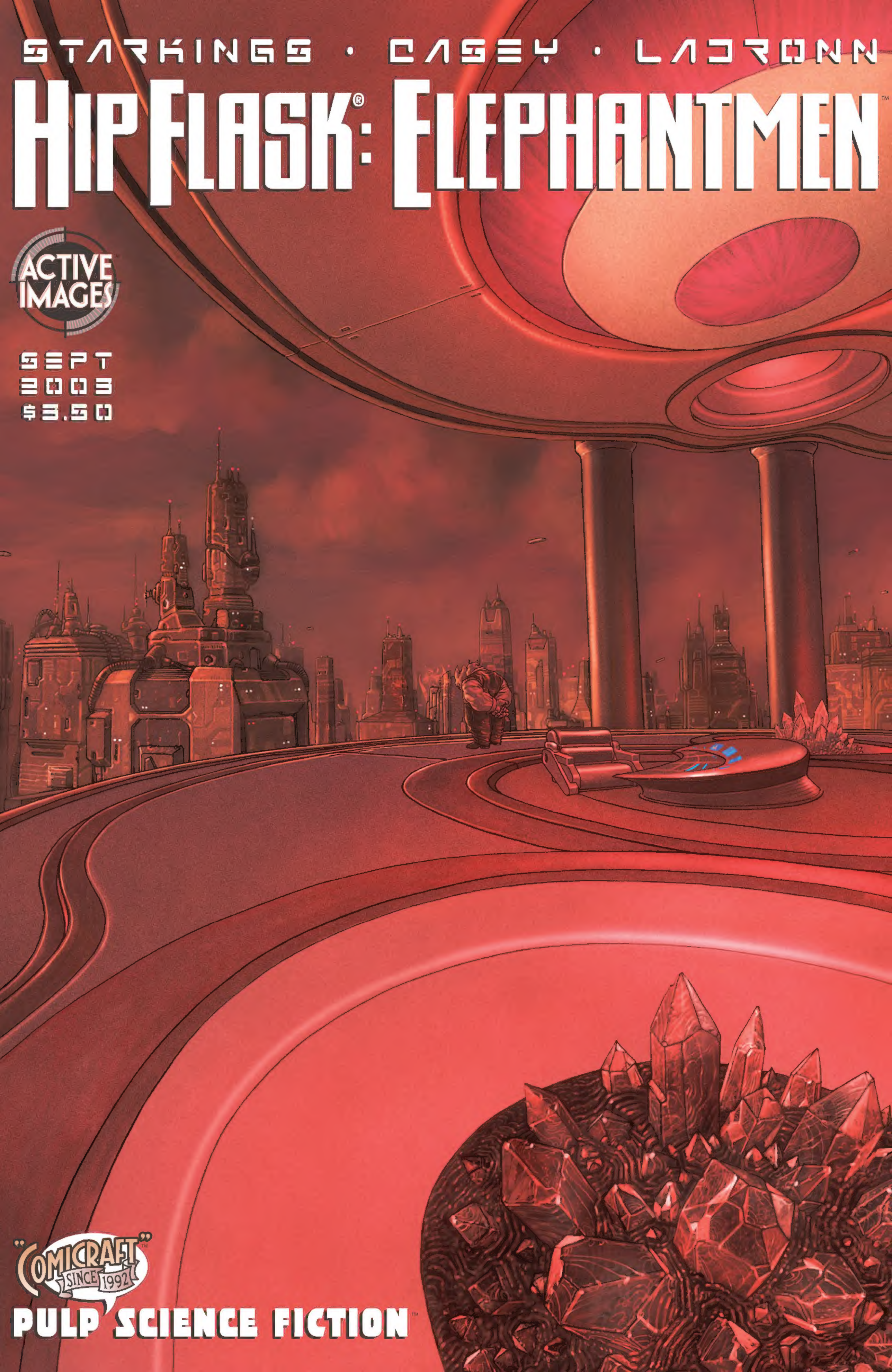
STARKINGS · CASEY · LACRONN

HIPFLASK®: ELEPHANTMEN™

ACTIVE IMAGES

SEPT 2003

$3.50



"COMICRAFT" SINCE 1992

PULP SCIENCE FICTION™